

Testimony of

Thomas E. Bruenn, Treasurer

Meriden Federation of Retirees

Appropriations Committee

March 24, 2011

Dear Committee Members:

First let me apologize for not being able to testify in person. I am the treasurer of the Meriden Federation of Retirees which represents the 250 teachers who have retired from the Meriden School System in the last fifteen years. I ask that you consider my written testimony in favor of SB 1122, An Act Permitting Payment of Union Dues from Teachers' Retirement Payments.

The Meriden Federation of Retirees spends a great deal of its time getting retired teachers to join our organization year after year. Many of the retirees have indicated that they would like to have a process in which they could be on continuous membership without the need to sign up each year. The current system the Meriden Federation of Retirees uses costly in time and money since we must send out notices about joining again and reminders of said notices. Voluntary dues deduction from retirement payments would help both the Federation and its members. SB 1122 does exactly that.

I would also like to point out that retired state employees already have the benefit of voluntarily having dues deducted from their pensions. It seems only fair that teachers, through the TRB, be given the same opportunity.

I urge you to support SB 1122 and provide retired teachers the same privileges that state employees now have.

Thank you for your consideration.